

Specific Privacy Statement: Student Social Survey 2023

1. Objective, implementation, and responsibility

The Student Social Survey is a survey of students in Austria that has been conducted at regular intervals since the 1970s. Since most of the information collected through the Social Survey is not otherwise available, the survey is an important information basis for higher education policy. The objective of the survey is to be able to provide an overview of the study situation and living conditions of different groups of students. Similar surveys are carried out at regular intervals in other countries in Europe. The results of the Austrian student social surveys have also been analysed since the 1990s for international comparison purposes (EUROSTUDENT). These international comparison data are also used by the EU, since only students themselves can provide information on how the different higher education systems and grant/support programmes function.

The survey will be carried out by the Higher Education Research Group HER at the Institute for Advanced Studies Vienna (IHS) (Josefstädter Str. 39, 1080 Wien) on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF). In the sense of the GDPR, the IHS is the responsible body.

2. What personal information do we collect and through which technical means?

The target group for the survey are all regular students at public and private universities, private higher education institutions ('Privathochschulen'), universities of applied sciences ('Fachhochschulen') and university colleges of teacher education ('Pädagogische Hochschulen') in Austria. Apart from personal characteristics, such as sex, age, citizenship or country of birth, the students are asked about their study and living conditions, such as the type of access to higher education, time budget and employment, financial situation, living conditions, and international mobility. Information about the health status of the students and other characteristics of personal identity are considered particularly worthy of protection in accordance with Art. 9 GDPR ((EU) 2016/679).

The invitation to participate in the online survey will be sent via email. Since the invitations are sent out exclusively by the higher education institutions themselves, the names and e-mail addresses of the survey participants remain with the higher education institutions and are not passed on to either the IHS or the BMBWF.

Every email contains an individualized link for the survey, so that respondents can interrupt the survey at any time and continue with this link where they left off. For conducting the online survey, software developed by the IHS itself is used to provide barrier-free access. The survey will be hosted at a certified service provider.

The respondents can take part in a prize draw. At the end of the questionnaire, they will be redirected to an input field where they can enter their e-mail address. This information is stored independently of the survey data and is used exclusively for the purpose of processing the prize draw. The vouchers will be sent to the winners by e-mail. The e-mail addresses of the participants will then be deleted. Participation in the price draw is voluntary, the questionnaire can be completed without taking part.

3. How do we anonymize your information?

When conducting the survey, the IHS does not receive personal information about the students, such as names and e-mail addresses. The individualized link only regulates access to the survey but is itself meaningless. Therefore, the IHS cannot identify individuals through the survey link. Only the higher education institution knows, which students have received which survey link, but the higher education institutions have no access to the individual survey data. Within two weeks after the survey close date, the higher education institutions delete the combination of the individualized survey links and e-mail addresses of the students. This makes the information in the questionnaire anonymous.

The IHS will not publish any data on groups which contain fewer than 30 people. All survey data are used exclusively for scientific and statistical purposes.

All participating organisations take the necessary technical and organizational measures to protect your information from any unauthorised access. The IHS has contractually committed to comply with the relevant data protection provisions, in particular GDPR ((EU) 2016/679), DSG and TKG 2021.

4. Further information and rights

Your participation in the survey is voluntary. Not participating will not have any negative consequences for you.

The data will be stored for as long as necessary for ensuring good scientific practice and needed for further scientific and statistical research, such as the comparison of survey results across different survey waves.

The data will be made available in anonymized form for further scientific and statistical non-profit use via selected research data centres. These data transmissions are also carried out on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF).

You have the right to know what data are stored about you, to correct the data stored about you, to restrict the purposes for which the data are being used, the right of opposition to processing of your data, the right to withdraw your consent for the future, as well as the right to complain to the relevant supervisory authority until the data have been anonymized (until the higher education institutions have deleted the combination of the individualized survey links and e-mail addresses of the students).

If you have any questions about the survey or the information processed in the context of the survey, or about your rights, or if you have any complaints, please contact the address below:

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1080 Vienna, Austria
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If no satisfaction is obtained, you can file a complaint with the Austrian Data Protection Authority (www.dsb.gv.at).

Further information can be found on our website <http://www.sozialerhebung.at/index.php/en/>.

Thank you!

The Student Social Survey 2023 Team